
Central Region Council EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Department of Workforce Services
1385 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 11, 2005
12:00 p.m.

Presiding: Greg Diven, Chair

Present: Jane Conard, Charles Daud, Linda Fife, Norman Fitzgerald, Paul Jackson, Commissioner Colleen Johnson, Jon Pierpont, Steven Rosenberg, Kevin Schofield, Karen Silver, Kerry Steadman

Absent: Edith Fauver, Douglas Johnston,

Excused: Councilman Jim Bradley, Jill Merritt, Ali Wilkinson

Staff: Kim Auberger, Leno Franco, Diane Lovell, Mary Peterson

Welcome & Announcements

Chairman Greg Diven called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. Chairman Diven began by recognizing and thanking Linda Fife, Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College (ATC) Campus President who has agreed to Co-Chair the Training & Development Committee with Doug Johnston. This assignment is in addition to her service on the Youth Council. Ms. Fife will also give a presentation regarding the ATC at the March 24th Central Regional Council meeting.

Chairman Diven recently attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Conference and will provide a summary at the March 24th meeting. He mentioned three reoccurring themes that were heard throughout the conference:

- We as a country are not keeping pace with the economic and educational progress that is being made in China, India and other Asian countries.
- Our educational system is broken. Several at the conference quoted Bill Gates remarks to Congress indicating that our education system was designed fifty years ago, is outdated and no longer fits the need.
- Federal funding is going to be difficult to get and participants were asked to work with congressional representatives to let them know of the various important bills, especially the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Greg Diven also mentioned “faith-based service delivery” and noted that there is a lot of funding for faith-based organizations that operate community programs. Greg feels that the Council could be a catalyst for getting organizations in the local area to apply for federal funding. Mr. Diven asked if anyone knows of an appropriate organization that may apply for this type of funding, to please let him know.

Another major area discussed at the NAWB Conference was job search training for released felons. There is a wealth of web based information that was shared and Mr. Diven will explore further to see what we have been doing in our community and other areas to meet the needs of this hard-to-serve population.

Jon Pierpont interjected that a DWS sponsored job fair for ex-offenders is scheduled on March 21st at 1385 South State. Mr. Pierpont also noted that DWS currently has two contracts to work with ex-felons exiting the Utah prison system.

Chairman Diven also noted that conference participants were encouraged to visit their Congressmen and he met with Representative Bob Bishop and thanked him for voting to support WIA Reauthorization. Mr. Diven also met with an associate of Senator Bob Bennett and with Senator Orrin Hatch's legislative aide.

Paul Jackson and Jon Pierpont and Diane Lovell shared highlights of the March 10th State Council meeting along with plans to proceed with preparation of the Council's Strategic Plan. The essence of the meeting was to talk about where the State is going and to determine what type of strategic plan DWS wants to have for the next two years. The meeting included:

- Recap of the Governors four goals
- DWS mission and goals
- Four main areas of focus for the future include:
 1. **Partnering** – how can we identify additional organizations with whom the department can partner to help further this end and what are we doing with existing organizations that can be improved
 2. **Job Seekers (supply side)** – addressing job training, incumbent worker training, what kinds of new educational ties we need to develop, such as apprenticeships, etc.
 3. **Employers (demand side)** – what skills does the business community need? How can we develop more basic skills, more workplace essential skills, how can we better share labor market information so that it is useable. How do we support the Governor's Economic Development initiative?
 4. **Distinctive Populations** – how can we better outreach to under-served communities and immigrant populations and provide better access.

The input and information from this discussion will be compiled after March 25, 2005 when DWS will receive final guidelines from the Department of Labor. It was suggested that the Central Region Council address the four focus areas during the Retreat on April 7th.

Karen Silver requested the State Council and DWS allow a 30-day public comment period for the Two-year Plan, thereby allowing adequate time for Council discussion and input. Jon Pierpont indicated that Ms. Silver's request would be taken into consideration.

Chairman Diven referred to the Council membership matrix and noted that several memberships are up for reappointment in June 2005. Appointments are made for 4-year

terms or to serve out an unexpired term of a former member. Mr. Diven will send a letter to the members involved to see if they are interested in reappointment. The “Action Item” for membership reappointments will take place at the May Central Region Council meeting. Mr. Diven also noted that Melva Sine has requested reassignment from the Training Committee to the Youth Council Committee.

Elections for Council Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the June 2005 Council meeting.

Regional Director’s Remarks

Jon Pierpont distributed copies of the March 2005 DWS Organizational Structure (chart). Tani Downing presented the new organization chart to the State Council on March 10th. Mr. Pierpont noted that the number of DWS “Directors” has been reduced from 21 to 12 and he will keep the Council informed as additional changes occur.

Executive Roundtable

Greg Diven announced that the Executive Roundtable meeting would be held immediately following the Executive Committee meeting. The primary topic of discussion will be continued planning for a May Automotive Services Roundtable.

The next Manufacturing Roundtable will be held on April 19, 2005 and will be chaired by John Hill. A special planning meeting has been scheduled for March 23rd 9:00 am at L3 Communications.

Ad hoc Health Care Committee Report

Jane Conard reported that the Ad hoc Health Care Committee met earlier today to determine the focus of the Health Care Committee. Considering the vastness of health care issues, the Committee decided to launch a “Healthcare Economic Literacy Campaign” for employers and employees as its objective. The campaign will be designed to emphasize the importance and benefits of a healthy workforce. Assignments were made and the committee will meet again in two weeks. Ms. Conard noted that the Committee plans to have this campaign underway by July 1, 2005.

Committee Reports & Strategic Plan Updates

Chairman Diven noted that Strategic Plan Updates are needed from each committee for the upcoming retreat on April 7, 2005.

Basic Needs – Karen Silver had nothing new to report at this time.

Facilities – Norm Fitzgerald had nothing new to report at this time. Leno Franco reported that the lease negotiations for both the Downtown and CRESC locations are being worked on and he will provide more information when available.

Training & Development - Linda Fife deferred to Diane Lovell who noted that applications from five schools have been received and are pending.

Norm Fitzgerald asked if there had been any response to the Council's suggestion for the review of approved schools. Jon Pierpont noted that a letter from the Council has gone to the State Council and he will work with the State office regarding this matter.

Youth Council – Paul Jackson noted that the next Youth Council meeting will be held on March 21, 2005 at 3:00 pm. Mr. Jackson indicated that DOL's new direction for Youth Councils has been introduced and that the Youth Council will address the areas outlined in the new direction by forming sub-committees at the March 21st meeting.

Marketing – Kim Auberger shared a draft April 7th Retreat agenda, noting the theme "Creating Success through our Strengths". Carol Voorhees the Facilitator will address different personalities and how to better get along with one another and tap into each others strengths. Invitations will be sent out to special guests. Ms. Auberger noted that we expect approximately 60 to 70 attendees based on the response last year.

Karen Silver suggested that key Legislators, County Commissioners and Council members be invited to the Retreat.

Kim Auberger also noted that the Marketing Committee would like to give special recognition to a deserving Council member, based on their tenure, participation and commitment. Diane Lovell added that Executive Committee members should expect an email from Jill Merritt with four nominees recommended by the Marketing Committee.

Karen Silver moved to accept the agenda as written. Jane Conard seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Chairman Diven thanked the Marketing Committee for their hard work to make this event successful.

Executive Committee Goals & Action Plans

Greg Diven reminded each Committee Chair that Committees should have two goals outlined and ready for discussion at the April retreat. Diane Lovell will send a follow-up email to Committee Chairs requesting Strategic Plan updates and goals for the upcoming year.

Kerry Steadman voiced concerns regarding setting goals at the April retreat and not having the final goals from the State could result in duplication of efforts. Jon Pierpont noted that information from the State should be available in the next few days, which will allow the process of setting goals at the Retreat to be effective.

Mr. Diven also indicated that more information will be forthcoming regarding the DWS Two Year Plan and four areas of emphasis

Agenda Setting for March 24, 2005 Regional Council Meeting

Chairman Diven reported on the agenda items for the March meeting that include:

- Provider Approvals

- Committee Reports & 2006 Goals
- Executive Roundtable & Health Care
- Retreat Update
- Regional Director's Report – Jon Pierpont
- Applied Technology College/10 minute Presentation – Linda Fife
- LMI Economic/5 minute Forecast – James Robson
- 2005 Legislative/10 minute update – Mike Richardson
- NAWB Update/Greg Diven?

Charles Daud noted that we are taking on more and more information and are becoming overwhelmed with too much being discussed at each meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business to report.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Greg Diven adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.